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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 10 December 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement by the President of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Niyazov, in connection with the first anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/80 A on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Aksoltan ATAEVA
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Statement of 12 December 1996 by the President of Turkmenistan in connection with the first anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/80 A on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan

One year ago, on 12 December 1995, a historic event took place in the life of independent Turkmenistan: the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 50/80 A on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan. Its adoption was recognition by the community of nations of the peace-loving foreign policy of Turkmenistan and its constructive role in international affairs.

The permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan, which has become a basic strategic principle of its foreign policy, is the most acceptable approach for Turkmenistan in pursuing its national interests and is in keeping with the country's historical, geopolitical and ethno-cultural realities. It reflects the openness, peaceableness and readiness for dialogue of the Turkmen people. These national qualities are intricately woven into the fabric of Turkmen foreign policy doctrine and have become its distinctive traits.

Today, on the first anniversary of the adoption of the historic General Assembly resolution, Turkmenistan confirms its strict compliance without any time limit with all international obligations resulting from its neutral status and its commitment to the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and other basic international legal documents.

Fully aware of its responsibility to the world community, Turkmenistan has taken concrete steps to implement its legislation in accordance with lofty international standards and establish in the country structures ensuring the observance and protection of such basic values common to all mankind as democracy and human rights. In the past year, Turkmenistan adopted a constitutional law on permanent neutrality and a declaration on the international obligations of neutral Turkmenistan in the field of human rights, and set up a national institute for democracy and human rights, which received the support and approval of State and public organizations in various countries. In accordance with the Constitution and the obligations that it has undertaken, there are no military bases or military units of foreign States, blocs or alliances in the territory of Turkmenistan and it has not joined any military or military-political associations or alliances or other organizations with rigidly regulated functions.

Turkmenistan actively carries out peacemaking activities in the region. Three rounds of the ongoing inter-Tajik talks were held under United Nations auspices in Ashgabad, and Turkmenistan stated its readiness to organize in its territory the holding of a broad inter-Afghan round table with the participation of all parties to the conflict. The decision to hold an international forum on Afghanistan in Ashgabad on 21 and 22 January 1997 confirms the high degree of confidence on the part of the United Nations in Turkmenistan's constructive foreign policy aimed at stabilizing the situation in that part of the world.

On the anniversary of the adoption of the General Assembly resolution, Turkmenistan, expressing its appreciation to the entire community of nations and each State individually and the Secretary-General for the support provided, states that it will continue to follow strictly the path of neutrality and the development of cooperation and friendly, equitable relations with all States throughout the world. On this day, the flags of the United Nations and all its Member States will be raised on the main square of Turkmenistan's capital as confirmation of the fact that the world community will have a reliable partner in neutral, democratic Turkmenistan.

Saparmurat NIYAZOV
President of Turkmenistan